

September

Magic Lantern Society
of the United States and Canada

NEWS 2020



Click slide to see others

LOOK for those Buttons and roll-over effects

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See more Elmer L. Foote Slides on pages 5

Magic Lantern Entertainment Helping You To Survive

A Chance to Share

From Matt Schnittker

mschnitt@gmail.com

I was able to take a few days off work to get out of Los Angeles and take in some trees, clean air, and 1800s buildings in Columbia California <http://visitcolumbiacalifornia.com/>. We stayed at the City Hotel https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=28004. I brought my lantern with the hope of sharing a little with the other hotel guests. However, with the dip on tourism, we were the only ones at the historic 1800s hotel!

A few of the town business were open so I started up a conversation with the owner of the Columbia Mercantile 1855 store <https://columbimercantile1855.com/>.

I asked if I could come by with the lantern and give a demonstration of the technology for her. She set me up in the back of the store and invited customers to come see what we had!

Everyone wore masks and we were able to keep 6 feet apart. The store had hand sanitizer available and strictly enforced the mask requirement. I was able to show some slides and do an overview of the art and technology. People were fascinated by the slip slides and mechanical movements.

Hope everyone is keeping safe and doing well.

-Matt





About Magic Lantern

From Rene Potts

pottsrrene@gmail.com

Hello. I believe I purchased a “Magic lantern” recently and I was wondering if your organization could help me gather some information about it. Your website was helpful and I believe I have one of the children’s toy one. Thanks in advance. And I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely
René

Hello. Thanks you for getting back to me! I have attached some pictures of my piece. It is mostly certainly a rust bucket. During my internet search the most identifying was the feet. It would have been a child’s toy. I believe it would be missing a few piece like the chimney and a kind of scope on the front. I cannot see any identifying marks. Looks to be altered as it has been attached to a board and now powered by a lightbulb. The switch (which I have attached pictures) looks pretty dated too.

Thank you again and I look forward to hearing from you!

Sincerely
Rene



no consequence - just try to avoid touching the contacts when operating it! Probably from the 1920s at a guess. I suggest you don't try plugging it in! If the light bulb is original that might be collectible in its own right.

From David

Hello Rene

I am (almost) certain this is, or was, a “Standard” lantern by Ernst Plank of Nuremberg, Germany. The company made huge numbers of “tin” toys - actually blued steel finish, which is what yours would have been originally. It is missing the chimney, the projection lens and the original oil lamp. It is interesting the way it has been mounted on the board. It looks like it may have been used as a static display, with the switch used to turn it on when the image was required. The wire holder to put the slides in is a bit of an oddity too! The switch dates from the time when electrical safety was of



If you want to try to free up the door hinge, I'd spray it with WD40 (about the only application for the stuff in my opinion) and work the door gradually to and fro and it should free up eventually.

Regards
David

continued next page

Magic Lantern continued



The light bulb, just visible inside the door, also looks vintage and might also date from 1920s.'



As does the light build you can barely see as the door is stuck and I don't want to break it. It came with 2 slides.

New Book

From Stephen Bottomore
sbottomore@gmail.com

I am contacting you about a new book by Tony Fletcher, *The Kinematograph Theatre Arrives, 1909* (Local History Publications, 2020). This is the third of Tony's trilogy, which tell the story of the arrival of cinema in London, 1896-1909, based on the archives of the London County Council (now held at the London Metropolitan Archives). The three volumes are very richly illustrated, using hitherto unknown documents: cinema plans/diagrams, letterheads, photographs, etc from the LCC's licensing department. Tony was the first (and only?) historian to look in these archives in detail for film historical information and the result is extraordinary in revealing cinema venues, film locations, events and pioneers. Tony's account ends in 1909 mainly because after that year the system of licensing London's entertainment venues changed and so the records become scattered.

Tony's three London cinema books are:

- 1) *Regulating the Cinematograph in London, 1897-1906* (Streatham, London: Local History Publications, 2017): £12 +p&p.
- 2) *A Kinematographic Journey through London (1907-8)* (Local History Publications, 2013): out of print.



3)

The Kinematograph Theatre Arrives, 1909 (Local History Publications, 2020): £20 +p&p.

For your information, Tony Fletcher is one of the founders of London's Cinema Museum and is often consulted on silent film historical matters by organisations such as the British Film Institute and the Pordenone silent film festival.

The books can be obtained from:

Tony Fletcher
Email: celluloidtapestry@hotmail.com
11 Claverdale Road, London SW2 2DJ
Phone: 0208 671 6551

Elmer L. Foote Lantern Slide Collection



Click Access Collection on Lexington web site to see slides



Elmer L. Foote served as official photographer of the Cincinnati Public Library for many years, and produced photographs that appeared in the Cincinnati Commercial Tribune during the early years of the twentieth century. Lantern slides are glass positive transparencies, viewed through a back lit projector. The Lexington Public Library does not have record of when the slides were donated, or the donor's name. Records do indicate that the library purchased a projectoscope for viewing glass slides in 1912, and a separate lantern slide collection was donated to the library in 1919. The slides contain examples of

 Lexington Public Library

HOME EVENTS & CLASSES

Home » Collections » Kentucky Room Digital Archives » Elmer L. Foote Lantern Slide Collection

Elmer L. Foote Lantern Slide Collection

<https://www.lexpublib.org/digital-archives/elmer-l-foote-lantern-slide-collection>

posed portraiture, scenery from around Kentucky, documentation of the new High Bridge, as well as several historic buildings and homes, some of which are unidentified.





for the cost of
shipping!

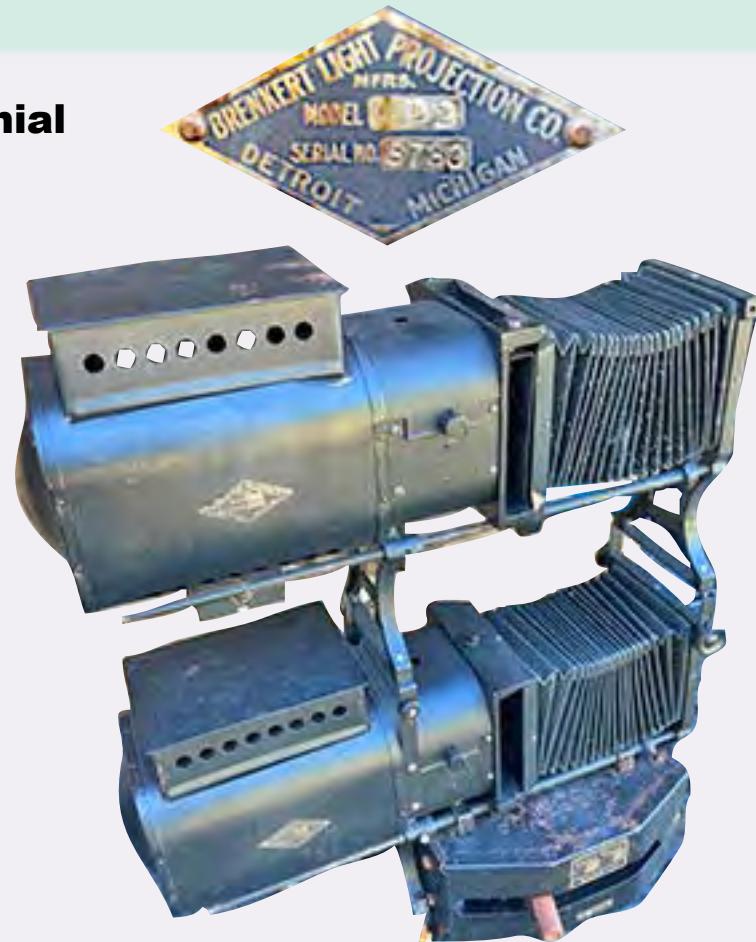
From Ron Easterday

Brenkert biunial available for cost of shipping. It is missing both focusing lenses but otherwise appears intact. Condensing lenses and lamps in place. Bellows sagging and a bit mildewed but intact. Rheostat has asbestos I am sure. Metal case with lid. Shipping weight with packing might be up toward 50 pounds. Location: Seattle, WA, USA. Moving and must be gone by mid-September so let me know soon if interested. More photos upon request.

Ron Easterday
rleasterday@comcast.net



Brenkert Biunial



Bausch & Lomb Optical Co. Model BB



OPEN TO
OFFERS

From Michael Huffaker

mph.huffaker@gmail.com

Mr Wells -

Hope you are well in these different and difficult times.

A number of years ago I came across a Model BB in it's case.

Label: 'Bausch & Lomb Optical Co., Rochester N.Y. U.S.A., MODEL BB "BALOPTICON", No. 45086, REG U.S. PAT. OFF, FEB. 21, 1911'

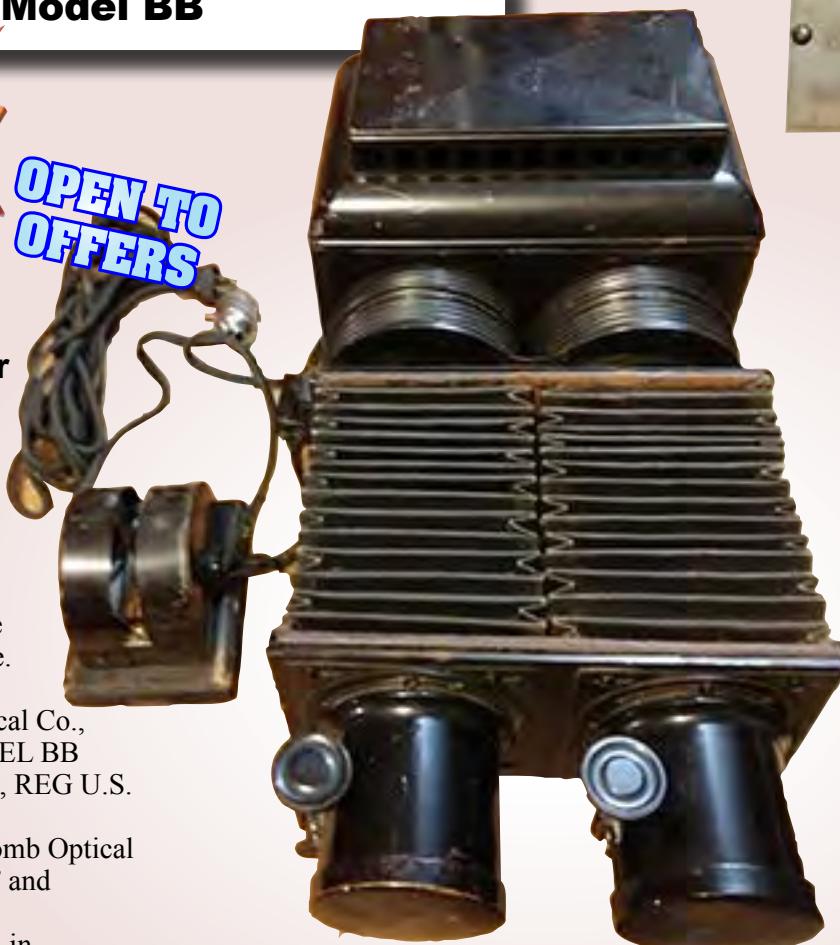
Lens: inscribed 'Bausch & Lomb Optical Co., Rochester N.Y. 2578028' and 2578055.

Case: 10 5/8 x 11 5/8 x 17 1/8 in

I am interested in selling it or at least finding a good home for it.

Any thoughts?

Thanks,
Michael Huffaker



From Kentwood Wells

This is a desirable late-model double lantern in good condition that could be used for giving shows. We can put your note in the next magic lantern email newsletter to see if any members want to make an offer.

Some of our members do public shows, but much less frequently in the Covid-19 era. I would recommend replacing the old bulbs and wiring with modern LED lamps, which generate much less heat and would have safer wiring. Some of our members may be able to respond with suggestions of dealers.



Mr Wells -

That sounds interesting. Are shows still being produced given the state of things? The unit has some issues - some of the mirroring is gone and only one of the bulbs works. More pictures are attached. Is there a listing fee? Do I need to set an asking price?

Thank you,
Michael Huffaker

Anna Caulfield McKnight



Online Exhibits

Home ▶ An Artful Life: The Colored... ▶ Anna Caulfield McKnight

Anna Caulfield McKnight

<https://apps.lib.umich.edu/online-exhibits/exhibits/show/caulfield/anna-caulfield-mcknight>

Anna Caulfield McKnight accomplished a great deal in her lifetime. She was highly educated and travelled broadly as an independent woman in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Anna was born in 1873. Her family's reputation and upper-class standing afforded her the opportunities that led to her productive life as a lecturer, philanthropist, and world traveller. She was educated first at Sacred Heart Academy in Detroit and went on to pursue secondary education at the Harvard Annex (Radcliffe College) before taking off to study and travel throughout Europe in the early 1890s.

Remarkably for a woman of her time, Anna pursued the majority of her career and established her professional reputation independently. She travelled mostly by herself across Europe and the East to build her lantern slide collection. During this time, Anna fostered political connections in several countries. She met with the Pope in Rome, the French government named her a member of the Fine Arts Department for the 1900 Paris Exposition, and she was honored by several presidents. In 1897, President McKinley was so impressed by one of her early lectures that he personally invited her and her mother to spend an evening at his summer home in Lake Champlain.



McKnight in front of the Taj Mahal

Exhibit Contents

Introduction

See

Anna's Illustrated Lectures

Anna's Illustrated Lectures

Based on her experiences abroad, McKnight understood the most effective way to study art as being able to engage with it in person. "With the reality of the picture before you you may instruct," she once wrote. In

McKnight's ideal world, she would have curated a travelling library of original artworks so that audiences could properly study artistic elements such as form and color. As this dream was certainly much too costly and difficult to realize (although McKnight did believe it would one day be possible), she set about collecting her lantern slides. Starting with her early travels to Europe, McKnight would gather images for her collection wherever she went. Special attention was paid to the quality and creation of the colored portion of her collection. She would instruct those producing her slides to only select the best images to be colored and specified the exact colors



Art gallery interior.

continued next page

Anna Caulfield McKnight continued

to be used. Afterall, it was her conviction that "the illustrated lecture on art is the only one that means anything."

McKnight's collection covers Europe, Russia, India, China, the United States, and Canada. Subjects range beyond classic examples of painting and sculpture to major monuments of architectural history and historical homes, and landscapes. Explore the themes of some of her most popular lectures and discover the vast wealth of knowledge she was able to share with audiences so many decades ago.



German Porcelain

PUZZLE PICTURE SLIDES FOR Moving Picture Exhibitors



PATENTS PENDING

Show Puzzle Pictures in your theatre by using our
**Roto Combination Song Slide and Puzzle Picture
Carrier**

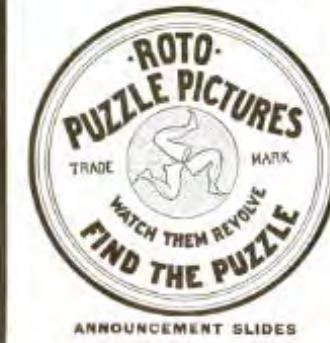
The Puzzle Picture Slides are handsomely colored, and your patrons can solve the puzzles in the same way as if they were handling a newspaper and turning it around.

Roto Puzzle Pictures in Colors

Are a real novelty. Your audience will like them. Children will talk about them. They will bring you business because like moving pictures they interest as well as amuse.

Two sets of new slides issued each week. Six Puzzle Picture Slides and one Announcement Slide in each set. Price \$5.00 per set of seven slides. Price of Roto Combination Carrier \$1.00.

Write for circular giving full description



**National Slide
Company**

53 State Street
Boston Mass.

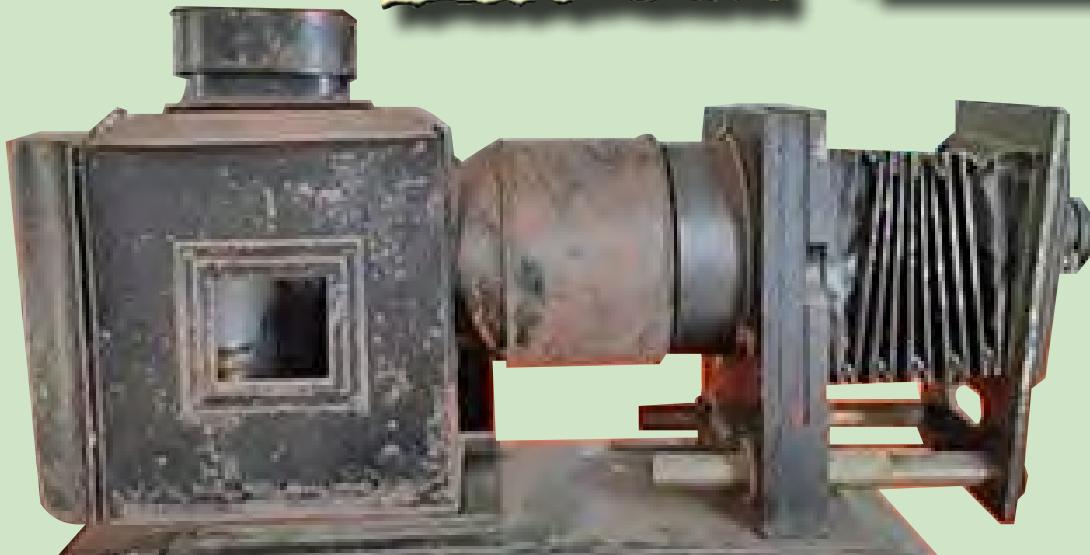
PUZZLE PICTURE SLIDE

Puzzle Picture Slides and Roto Combination Carriers can be had from all Film and Song Slide Exchanges or from the Manufacturer.



Inquiry

Need Assistance to Identify Lantern



From Michele-Marie Leguillou

mlegu001@gold.ac.uk

Hope you and your loved ones are keeping well and safe.

A family member have acquired a magic lantern. I have tried (via Internet) to try to identify make and/or year that was manufactured.

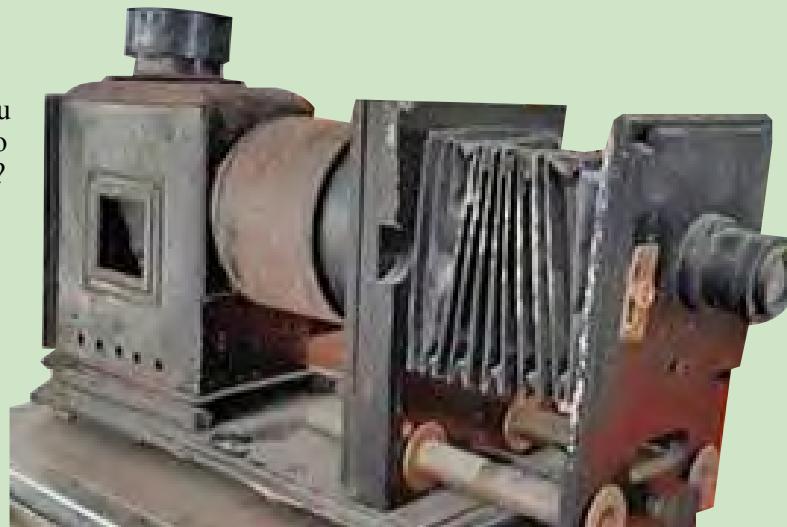
There are so many styles but I do not seem to find any information.

I have attached a picture of it.

If you cannot assist me, can you please give me a tip of where to go and ask my crazy questions?

Thank you and I am very grateful for your assistance.

Michele



From Wells, Kentwood

Thanks for your note. This is an enlarging lantern, used to make photographic prints or lantern slides from glass plate negatives, although it could be used to project regular positive lantern slides as well. The giveaway is the large diameter condenser lens between the lantern body and the glass plate holder, and the large bellows. These were made in many countries in the late 19th and early 20th century. The incandescent bulb probably is a later addition. A couple of examples

continued next page

Need Assistance to Identify Lantern continued



are shown in the attached photo, but they came in many styles with various illuminants. Probably your lantern is English. I am copying David Evans on this note; he can post your inquiry in our monthly email newsletter in case someone else has more information.



**the Year was
1915**

1915 The Retail Coalman - Volume 27 - Page 111

DOES A COAL MINER'S CHILDREN WANT?

WHY NOT YOU?

NOW is the time to let us fill your coal bin and make you an buyer as a book. Do not put it off any longer.

Dear Sirs - Your name, address and phone number in lower right hand corner.

Read the following testimonial:

"We think one of the best mediums for advertising a retail coal business is the moving picture theater slides." —A. H. Eisinger, The Matthes-Eisinger Co., Dubuque, Ia.

Lantern Slides

for use in the

Moving Picture Theater

We have made arrangements with one of the best moving picture advertising slide manufacturers and are now able to furnish any of our attractive moving card or advertising designs in the form of lantern slides. Price \$1.00 per slide, postpaid.

**The Retail Coalman,
1535 Monadnock Block,
Chicago, Ill.**



Question About Slide Sizes

From Andy Pidge
andypidge456@aol.co.uk

Hello, i am not sure if you answer general questions but would be grateful for any advice. I am currently looking into buying a magic lantern but have no experience or knowledge. My main question is about the varying sizes of slides i have seen. Do the slides fit into all projectors or do you need a specific projector for certain slide sizes. Many thanks
Andy

From David Evans
Hello Andy

There are many different formats for slides, but for 'professional' use the most common sizes are 3 1/4" x 3 1/4" (UK size) or 3 1/4" x 4" (US and some European sizes). The vast majority of slides are one of these formats, and both can be shown in a regular lantern, but using different slide carriers. There are many other smaller variant sizes for children's and other lanterns, and a few larger ones for special venues such as the Royal Polytechnic Institute in London in the 19th Century.

Thank you for your enquiry and I hope this helps a bit. Do feel free to contact me again if you need further information.

David Evans

A Big Thank You to the following:

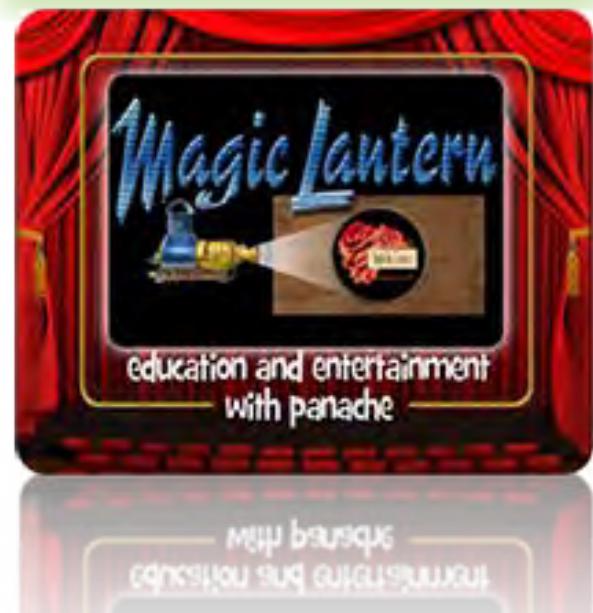
contributing to this months issue.

Stephen Bottomore
Ron Easterday
David Evans
Douglas Hausknecht
Michael Huffaker
Michele-Marie Leguillou
Andy Pidge
Rene Potts
Matt Schnittker
Kentwood Wells

Now it's your turn to share!

Do you have a favorite site or a collection of images you would like to share with the rest of the society?

E-mail Larry



response

**to Article from
E-pub
August 2020 p-11**

From Douglas Hausknecht

A quick note for Tom Boman:

The Ensign Company in England produced slides for Walt Disney and the Disney Company in the 1930's. All had reading scripts and the characters would be familiar to today's children. Prices on eBay vary from the sublime to the ridiculous.

I can locate most of the scripts so if you find a set that's at a reduced price because there is no script, it may work out.

I had planned to discuss Ensign's products at the Cleveland Convention.

Doug

(you can list my email if you wish
hauskne@uakron.edu)

Douglas Hausknecht, Ph.D.
Associate Professor Emeritus
Senior Lecturer

**Please
be a
part of
the New
Gazette
Format**



Next Issue at Printer



Help us to increase communication to and between members of the society. Our membership includes performers, collectors, academics, and others interested in the history and showmanship of the era, and we know that members want more information about events, "how to's", and collections in addition to historical pieces.

Contact Editors
David & Lesley Evans to contribute
E: mechmusicmuseum@aol.com